

Mid Valley Packaging is a distributor of agricultural and industrial packaging supplies. Their business is a great service in an area where agriculture and agriculture distribution supplies are very necessary and important.

Husband and wife John and Lorrie Gahvejian started Mid Valley Packaging in January of 1980. The Gahvejian's began as the first two employees of Mid Valley Packaging.

Today, Mid Valley Packaging employs over 50 people out of their headquarters in Fowler, California. Mid Valley Packaging has always been located in the quaint city of Fowler, which is famous for their abundant raisin production.

John and Lorrie's business philosophy has always been to offer customers the highest level of service combined with the most competitive price. Much of their growth can be attributed to their willingness and ability to respond quickly to their customer's needs.

Mid Valley Packaging has been recognized by many vendors and customers as a leader in the packaging industry. In 1997, the Fowler Chamber of Commerce selected Mid Valley Packaging as the "Industry of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mid Valley Packaging on the occasion of their 21st year anniversary celebration. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mid Valley Packaging and wishing the Gahvejian family many more years of continued success.

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS CELEBRATES 33RD ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts on the occasion of its 33rd Anniversary. Each year, East Bay Center programs benefit more than 25,000 members of the ethnically diverse, low-income, inner-city communities in and around Richmond, California. Since its founding in 1968, East Bay Center has directly touched the lives of over 700,000 people. Its Art and Public Education Outreach Program reaches an average of 2,500 students per week in 24 schools in two school districts. Center faculty, staff and board members reflect the community they serve in terms of ethnicity, economic background and family structure. Together, the staff and faculty speak more than 15 languages.

The Center nurtures a critical range of minority and mainstream arts, including over 12 culturally distinct repertoire forms, and sustains nine culturally distinct Resident Companies providing 30-40 low or no-cost performances each year. Those resident companies are: Iron Triangle Theater, Richmond BLOCO, Son de la Tierra, Mien Legends, My View Film Crew, Richmond Jazz Collective, Youth West African Music And Dance Ensemble, Richmond Chamber Ensemble, and Richmond Ballet Theater. The Center's Living the Mission programs involve the Center in ongoing part-

nerships with social service providers such as group homes, domestic violence agencies, homeless shelters, and juvenile hall.

The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts has been the recipient of many awards and honors over the years. Among those recently received by the Center are: a "2001 Youth to Youth Award" from the San Francisco Foundation's Youth Initiative Leadership Program; "2001 Community Impact Award" from the Iron Triangle Neighborhood Council and Community Collaborative; "1999 Coming Up Taller Award" supported by the President's Commission on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts; "1999 Cyril Magnin Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts" presented by the Business Arts Council, a project of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; "Governors Award for Community Service for 1999" from the Board of Governors of the San Francisco Chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS); and "1998 Honor Roll Winner" in the category of "Communities that are Safe and Provide a High Quality of Life", awarded by the Contra Costa Children and Families Policy Forum.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts for its commitment to excellence and its efforts to ensure that the opportunities for a quality education in the arts should be available to all persons, regardless of background, age, physical disability, previous experience or ability to pay standard fees. I applaud the Center for its efforts to engage the arts, which speak to our common humanity, as a vehicle for social reconciliation and social change.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and high regard that I congratulate a very special group of women within Indiana's First Congressional District. On Friday, November 9, 2001, the members of Church Women United of Gary, Indiana will be holding their Recognition Dinner at Turkey Creek Banquet Facilities in Merrillville, Indiana.

Church Women United is a national ecumenical movement of Christian women whose life centers around prayer, Bible study, advocacy and action. Founded in 1951, Church Women United is organized in over 1,400 local and state units in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The members of Church Women United are Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women who are called by the Holy Spirit to act for justice on behalf of women and children throughout the global community. Biblically based through their shared Christian faith, the women are gifted by their diversity of race, economics, age, culture and theology.

Church Women United brings Christian women together for spiritual nourishment and faith based advocacy. The Church Women

United local and state units are active in a broad spectrum of community ministries, including prison ministries, food pantries, tutoring and child care, and job skills training. On a national level, Church Women United works in coalition with partner groups around common issues and concerns.

On Friday, the Gary Chapter of Church Women United will honor all of its past presidents for their devotion to Christianity. Those being honored include: Clara Guster Nicholson, elected in 1971; Mary Glidewell, elected in 1980; Mynette Cope, elected in 1987; Maxine Watts Levels, elected in 1992; Velma Richardson, elected in 1996; Susie Threath, elected in 1999; and current president, Madlyn C. Adams, elected in 2001. These women have come together in fellowship to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ and, enabled by the Holy Spirit, to go out together in every neighborhood as instruments of reconciling love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the past presidents of Church Women United of Gary, Indiana for their strong commitment to social justice, to human rights, to civil rights and to the welfare and benefit of women and children so that all may flourish.

HONORING GUIDO J. MARTINELLI, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, (PENNSYLVANIA) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Guido J. Martinelli, who has been awarded the Montgomery County, (Pennsylvania) Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Citizen Award," for his many years of dedicated service to his community.

Guido was born and raised in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania as the fourth of five children of Italian immigrants. After graduating from Norristown High School in 1955, he took a position with the Montgomery-Norristown Penn Trust which was the forerunner of the PNC bank. He quickly ascended through the ranks of the bookkeeping departments, advancing all the way to assistant branch manager and then was granted the first corporate title of assistant secretary. Guido received numerous promotions culminating with the rank of branch manager of the Continental Bank, in Norristown. He retired from PNC Bank in 1998 after forty-three years' service. But his retirement did not last long as he accepted the position of vice president in business development with the Progress Bank where he still is currently employed.

In addition to his stellar career in the financial services sector, community service has been extremely important to Guido. He currently serves on the board of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and has been active with the organization for seventeen years. He currently serves as a board member of the Senior Adult Activities Center of Montgomery County. He participates in the Norristown Lions Club, the Norristown Rotary Club and the Meals on Wheels program.